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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SEATTLE WA
1130 AM PST SAT DEC 21 2013

...2013 WESTERN WASHINGTON WEATHER YEAR IN REVIEW...

THE YEAR BEGAN AND ENDED WITH A COLD SNAP AND WAS RELATIVELY MILD OR WARM IN BETWEEN. THE RECENT DECEMBER COLD SNAP RESULTED IN THE COLDEST TEMPERATURES OF YEAR WITH READINGS IN THE TEENS DURING THE 7TH AND 8TH. THE WARMEST TEMPERATURES OCCURRED IN LATE JUNE WITH MANY LOCATIONS REACHING INTO THE LOWER 90S...AND AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 11TH.

FOR THE YEAR...PRECIPITATION WAS BELOW AVERAGE RANGING FROM THREE TO NINE INCHES BELOW AVERAGE BY MID DECEMBER. THERE WERE WET PERIODS THOUGH INCLUDING APRIL AND SEPTEMBER. BOTH SEATAC AIRPORT AND OLYMPIA HAD THEIR WETTEST SEPTEMBERS EVER ON RECORD WITH 6.17 INCHES AND 9.36 INCHES RESPECTIVELY. IN CONTRAST...THERE WAS A NEARLY TWO MONTH STRETCH FROM LATE JUNE UNTIL LATE AUGUST WITH ONLY ABOUT A QUARTER OF AN INCH OF RAIN FOR ANOTHER FINE SUMMER. JULY WAS THE DRIEST MONTH EVER AT BOTH OLYMPIA AND SEATAC AIRPORTS WITH NO PRECIPITATION IN THE RAIN GAUGES.

DAMAGING STORMS WERE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. PROBABLY THE MOST STRIKING STORMS WERE THE LIGHTNING EVENTS ON AUGUST 9/10... SEPTEMBER 5TH AND SEPTEMBER 15TH. EACH EVENT PRODUCED SEVERAL THOUSAND LIGHTNING STRIKES WITH THE LAST EVENT CAUSING A PAUSE IN THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS/SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS GAME.

THUNDERSTORMS ALSO PRODUCED TWO WEAK TORNADOES IN THE STATE. THE FIRST WAS ON MARCH 21ST NEAR HOCKINSON IN CLARK COUNTY AND THE SECOND...NEAR FREDRICKSON IN PIERCE COUNTY ON SEPTEMBER 30TH. IN ADDITION...A WATERSPOUT WAS NOTED ON OCTOBER 2ND OFF WESTPORT AND TWO FUNNEL CLOUDS WERE OBSERVED – ONE IN OKANOGAN COUNTY AND THE OTHER OVER VANCOUVER.

STATE ROUTE 20 IN THE NORTH CASCADES WAS THE TARGET OF TWO HEAVY RAIN EVENTS ON AUGUST 11TH AND SEPTEMBER 5TH THAT RESULTED IN LOCAL FLASH FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES...CLOSING THE HIGHWAY FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.

THERE WERE TWO FATALITIES THIS YEAR...BOTH INVOLVING AVALANCHES NEAR SNOQUALMIE PASS ON APRIL 13TH. THERE WAS ALSO 11 INJURIES...7

INVOLVING AVALANCHES INCLUDING SIX WITH THAT APRIL 13 EVENT...TWO BEING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING INCLUDING A MOTORCYCLIST RIDING ON I-5 NEAR CHEHALIS...AND ONE PERSON HURT BY A FALLING TREE DURING A THUNDERSTORM RELATED WIND EVENT NEAR SILVERDALE.

WEATHER RESULTED IN PROPERTY DAMAGES APPROACHING 900 THOUSAND DOLLARS WITH STATISTICS FROM NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER YET TO BE COMPILED.

THE YEAR STARTED WITH - NEUTRAL – CONDITIONS...NOT LA NINA OR EL NINO. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THERE HAVE BEEN BACK TO BACK NEUTRAL WINTER SEASONS SINCE THE WINTERS OF 1992-93 AND 1993-94. NEUTRAL WINTERS USUALLY PRODUCE ACTIVE HAZARDOUS WEATHER. YET THE WINTER OF 2012-13 WAS RELATIVELY TRANQUIL. THIS FALL HAS BEEN SHOWING SIGNS OF ACTIVE WEATHER WITH THE WET SEPTEMBER...A STRONG WIND EVENT ON NOVEMBER 2ND THAT RESULTED IN OVER 200 THOUSAND PEOPLE WITHOUT POWER AND CLOSING THE EVERGREEN POINT BRIDGE FOR A FEW HOURS...AND THEN THE RECENT DECEMBER COLD SNAP.

BELOW IS A LIST OF THE YEARS SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENTS AND THE RECORD TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION ESTABLISHED THUS FAR THIS YEAR. IN ADDITION...HERE IS AN INTERESTING STATISTIC – SEATAC AIRPORT HAD ITS HIGHEST ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE EVER RECORDED IN MAY AT 30.60 INCHES AND THE LOWEST SEPTEMBER PRESSURE EVER AT 29.20 INCHES – BOTH IN ONE YEAR WITH 120 YEARS OF WEATHER RECORDS IN SEATTLE.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

TORNADOES AND WATERSPOUTS

MARCH 21 – CLARK COUNTY - A BRIEF EF0 TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN 2 MILES NE OF HOCKINSON.

JUNE 19 – CLARK COUNTY - A FUNNEL CLOUD WAS OVER VANCOUVER FOR ABOUT 5 MINUTES.

SEPTEMBER 7 – OKANOGAN COUNTY – A FUNNEL CLOUD WAS SPOTTED BETWEEN MOLSON AND CHESAW.

SEPTEMBER 30 – PIERCE COUNTY – AN EF1 TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN NEAR FREDERICKSON AND WAS ON THE GROUND FOR ABOUT 5 MINUTES FOR A MILE IN LENGTH. MAX WIND SPEED WAS ESTIMATED AT 110 MPH. IT TORE OFF PART OF THE ROOF AT BUSINESSES – NW ROOF AND ENCON...AND ON THE BOEING FACILITY BLEW OVER SEVERAL EMPTY RAIL BOXCARS...KNOCKED DOWN A RADIO TOWER AND SEVERAL PARKING LOT LAMP POSTS...SEVERAL DOZEN DOWNED TREES AND DAMAGED ABOUT A DOZEN VEHICLES.

OCTOBER 2 – A WATERSPOUT WAS OBSERVED ABOUT A QUARTER MILE OFF THE COAST BETWEEN WESTPORT AND GRAYLAND FOR NEARLY 25 MINUTES.

LIGHTNING/THUNDERSTORMS

MAY 13 – KING/KITSAP/PIERCE COUNTIES – STRONG DAMAGING THUNDERSTORM RELATED WINDS RESULTED IN SOME DOWNED TREES AND POWER OUTAGES. GREEN RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASSES WERE CANCELLED DUE TO A POWER OUTAGES AND SOME DOWNED TREES ON THE CAMPUS. IN SILVERDALE...A TREE CRASHED ONTO A HOME INJURING THE OCCUPANT. IN EDGEWOOD...A TREE FELL ON A HOME.

JULY 17 – WESTERN WASHINGTON - THUNDERSTORMS WITH ABOUT 2500 LIGHTNING STRIKES RUMBLED THROUGH THE REGION. LIGHTNING CAUSED A POWER OUTAGE IN SHORELINE.

JULY 31 – KING COUNTY – LIGHTNING STRUCK AND KNOCKED DOWN A TREE ONTO A WOMAN STANDING ON HER PORCH BREAKING HER HIP. LIGHTNING SPARKED A GAS LEAK IN SAMMAMISH.

AUGUST 9/10 – INTERIOR OF WESTERN WASHINGTON – ABOUT 1200 LIGHTNING STRIKES OVERNIGHT RESULTED IN SOME SPECTACULAR PHOTOS.

SEPTEMBER 5 – INTERIOR OF WESTERN WASHINGTON – ANOTHER LIGHTNING BUST WITH AROUND 2000 STRIKES RESULTED IN A MOTORCYCLIST GETTING HIT WHILE RIDING ON I-5 NEAR CHEHALIS...ANOTHER MAN STRUCK NEAR SHELTON AND A HOME IN PUYALLUP DAMAGING MANY OF THE HOMES ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES. 2 INJURIES.

SEPTEMBER 15 – WESTERN WASHINGTON – A SIGNIFICANT LIGHTNING BUST PRODUCING CLOSE TO 5000 STRIKES RESULTED IN A ONE HOUR DELAY IN THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS/SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS NFL GAME DURING THE EVENING.

HAIL

NO SEVERE SIZED HAIL – 1 INCH OR GREATER DIAMETER – WAS REPORTED DURING THE YEAR ALTHOUGH THERE WERE A NUMBER OF REPORTS OF SMALL HAIL, ICE PELLETS AND GRAUPEL OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR.

HIGH WINDS

FEBRUARY 7 - WESTERN WHATCOM COUNTY – WINDS OF UP TO 40 MPH REPORTED AT SANDY POINT.

FEBRUARY 25 – NORTH INTERIOR – A FEW HOURS OF STRONG WINDS OF UP TO 60

MPH.

SEPTEMBER 29 – COAST/OLYMPICS/NORTH INTERIOR - STRONG WINDS WITH GUSTS UP TO 85 MPH RESULTED IN SOME DOWNED TREES AND ABOUT 6000 HOMES WITHOUT POWER.

OCTOBER 27 – WESTERN WHATCOM COUNTY – BRIEF STRONG WINDS OF UP TO 65 MPH.

NOVEMBER 2 – COAST/PUGET SOUND TO NORTH INTERIOR – STRONG WINDS OF UP TO 66 MPH RESULTED IN AROUND 200000 PEOPLE WITHOUT POWER AND CLOSING THE EVERGREEN POINT FLOATING BRIDGE FOR A FEW HOURS MIDDAY.

NOVEMBER 15/16 – CENTRAL COAST AND ADMIRALTY INLET AREA – WINDS OF UP TO 40 MPH.

WINTER STORMS

DECEMBER 5-9 – WESTERN WASHINGTON COLD SNAP – A COLD AIR MASS BLANKETED THE REGION WITH TEMPERATURES WELL BELOW AVERAGE. SEATAC AIRPORT HAD 5 DAYS WITH AN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 29 DEGREES OR LESS – THE LONGEST SUCH SPELL SINCE JANUARY 2007.

DECEMBER 5/6 - COAST – UP TO 3 INCHES OF LIGHT SNOW FELL.

DECEMBER 9/10 – CENTRAL COAST THROUGH SOUTHWEST INTERIOR – LIGHT AMOUNTS OF UP TO AN INCH OR SO OF SNOW FELL.

AVALANCHE

JANUARY 15 – ONE PERSON WAS INJURED IN AN AVALANCHE NEAR SNOQUALMIE PASS.

APRIL 13 – IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS NEAR SNOQUALMIE PASS...TWO PEOPLE DIED AND 7 WERE INJURED IN AVALANCHES.

FLOODS/HEAVY RAIN/LANDSLIDES

JANUARY 8 – WHATCOM COUNTY – HEAVY RAIN LED TO A LANDSLIDE NEAR SEMIAHMOO BAY.

JANUARY 9 – KING COUNTY – A LANDSLIDE JUST SOUTH OF ALKI POINT RESULTED IN A PARTIALLY BLOCKED ROADWAY AND DAMAGE TO A MINIVAN.

JANUARY 9 – HEAVY RAINFALL RESULTED IN MINOR FLOODING ALONG THE BOGACHIEL RIVER...STILLAGUAMISH AT ARLINGTON AND THE SKOKOMISH

RIVERS.

JANUARY 31 – ISLAND COUNTY – A 100-YARD LANDSLIDE NEAR CLINTON DESTROYED ONE HOME AND DAMAGED MANY OTHERS.

AUGUST 11 – SKAGIT COUNTY – HEAVY RAINFALL PRODUCED SOME LOCAL FLASH FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES WEST OF RAINY PASS ALONG SR-20 AS WELL AS THE CASCADE RIVER ROAD. SR-20 WAS CLOSED FOR NEARLY A WEEK UNTIL THE ROADWAY WAS CLEARED OF THE DEBRIS.

SEPTEMBER 5 – SKAGIT COUNTY – HEAVY RAINFALL PRODUCED LOCAL FLASH FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS EAST OF MARBLEMOUNT CLOSING A 24-MILE SECTION OF SR-20.

SEPTEMBER 28 – PIERCE COUNTY – HEAVY RAINFALL PRODUCED SOME URBAN FLOODING IN THE TACOMA AND PUYALLUP AREAS RESULTING IN SOME DAMAGE TO STREETS...HOMES...BUSINESSES AND PUBLIC FACILITIES INCLUDING A MORE THAN 60 UNIT MINI-STORAGE BUSINESS IN TACOMA.

SEPTEMBER 29/30 – HEAVY RAINFALL RESULTING IN MINOR FLOODING ALONG THE NEWAUKUM...PUYALLUP AT ORTING AND SKOKOMISH RIVERS.

HEAT/WILDFIRE

THERE WERE NO HEAT WAVES DURING THE YEAR. WESTERN WASHINGTON HIGH TEMPERATURES CLIMBED INTO THE LOWER 90S IN SOME LOCATIONS IN LATE JUNE AND AGAIN IN MID SEPTEMBER. NO SIGNIFICANT WILDFIRES OCCURRED THIS YEAR EITHER. WILDFIRES WERE CONFINED TO AREAS EAST OF THE CASCADE CREST THIS SEASON.

HERE ARE THE HIGH...LOW AND PRECIPITATION RECORDS THAT WERE BROKEN DURING 2013. ENTRIES HAVE THE MONTH/DATE OF THE RECORD...WITH THE RECORD VALUE FOLLOWING. T – MEANS THAT IT WAS TIED.

THERE WERE FAR MORE RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES THAN LOWS AND NUMEROUS RAINFALL RECORDS SET.

SEA-TAC AIRPORT...RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1945

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
04/08 70		02/17 0.68
08/05 93		03/29 1.08
10/07 75T		05/03 0.73
11/30 59		05/21 0.55
		06/05 0.63
		06/22 0.62

07/20 0.60
 10/30 1.36
 11/19 2.13

OLYMPIA AIRPORT...RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1948

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
04/23 76	06/09 37T	03/29 1.98
08/05 94	10/04 29T	05/03 1.09
08/16 96T	10/05 28	06/07 0.63
	10/06 28	
	11/10 20	

QUILLAYUTE AIRPORT...RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1967

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
01/02 60	05/11 31	03/12 2.17
03/08 64T		03/28 2.24
05/14 78		03/29 1.80
08/04 95		04/24 0.96
08/15 91		04/25 2.33
08/16 89		06/07 0.94
09/07 89T		06/29 1.14
		07/02 0.57
		10/13 1.75
		10/14 2.62

HOQUIAM AIRPORT – RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1953

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
08/04 91	01/15 25	02/21 1.72
08/15 83	05/19 37T	03/12 2.11
09/07 92	10/03 36T	03/14 1.17
09/17 84T	11/10 30	03/29 1.59
		04/25 0.99
		05/03 0.99
		10/30 2.57
		11/19 2.84

BELLINGHAM AIRPORT – RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1949

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
01/02 59	06/15 39	03/10 0.49
01/03 57	06/20 43T	04/19 1.02
01/04 60	06/25 43T	05/21 0.65
02/02 59	10/05 33	

02/03 72
 02/05 67
 02/06 71
 02/07 60T
 04/08 68
 04/22 71T
 08/05 85
 11/29 60

SEATTLE WFO AT SAND POINT...RECORDS DATE BACK TO 1987

HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	PRECIPITATION
01/01 56	01/15 26T	03/29 1.04
02/03 62T	01/18 27	05/01 0.38
02/07 62T	01/19 27	05/03 0.67
04/08 70	01/20 29T	05/21 0.58
04/21 69T	03/23 33T	06/05 0.90
08/04 90T	04/07 36T	06/07 0.53
08/05 90	05/10 37	06/18 0.24
08/16 91T	05/11 41	06/22 0.91
08/17 91	06/06 47T	06/26 0.09
09/17 81	08/31 49	07/03 0.58
11/30 56	09/12 48T	07/20 0.72
	10/08 43T	10/18 0.67
	11/09 32	10/30 1.20
	11/10 33T	10/31 0.89
		11/19 2.60
		11/30 1.45

GRUB/SLANEY/MCFARLAND/NEHER/BOWER/BUEHNER